

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 1871.

DEAR SIR—I would like you to answer, through the New York Ledger, the following question: Should a young man defer matrimony till he has secured the ideal of a lady? or, in other language, should he seek an ideal lady for a wife? By answering the above question, you will confer a great favor on a young man who has been exercised for years on this point.

When a young man is in a situation to support a wife and household he should marry. But how long he should wait in making up his mind depends on too many things to be here specified. But a few cautions may be suggested:

A man ought to consider what he had to give before he could expect to receive. If one expects all the graces and virtues to reside in a woman—personal beauty, agreeable manners, intelligence, domestic qualities, judgment, devoutness, affectionateness—by what right does he claim the heart of such a one? What a rare creature are you, such a rare paragon should be yours? Is it modest or proud to suppose that you have only to ask and obtain a husband? On what grounds do you claim the alliance of a great soul in a royal form, when you yourself have no equivalent to offer him? Can you demand anything but women. What if a plain, laboring man should ask, "Will you marry me?" or wait till I meet my ideal of a horse?" Buy a horse that suits your circumstances, and is within the reach of your money.

If you want a wife, or wait till a cottage, or wait till I can find an ideal mansion? But your ideal mansion is never going to come, and a cottage is within it, and as you must live somewhere, you had better choose modestly. In property matters, men are usually wiser than women. In other instances, They do not wait for ideal clothes, or houses, or business. They take what they can get, and are always waiting for that which was not probable, or which might not reasonably be expected to be within their reach.

It is very difficult to do more than picture every imaginable excellence in the chosen one whom Time is bringing forth, and so we are apt to conclude, occur to them that it would be a shame

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